

Community Highway Safety Forum

East/West Shore – Flathead Lake



Director Jim Lynch
Montana Department of
Transportation

June 4 & 5, 2008
Polson & Kalispell, Montana

Montana Department of Transportation



Goals of Meeting

- 1st Set of Meetings: June 4th & 5th
 - Present existing conditions & facts
 - Gather input
- 2nd Set of Meetings: To be determined
 - Share results of public input & analysis
 - Share additional information
 - If changes contemplated, there will be a formal notice and comment period

Organization

- Demographics, Geography, and Routes
- Crash Characteristics
- Users – who, where, why

Location of April 2nd, 2008 Oil Spill on MT 35



Note: There are approximately 9.2 miles of MT 35 located less than 100 meters from the shore line.

Approximately 2 miles of US 93 are located less than 100 meters from the shore line.

Montana Department of Transportation



Can Scenic Byways Restrict Truck Traffic?

- MT 35 has no State or Federal scenic designation
- Designation does not provide any additional authority to change speed limits or limit commercial vehicles
- Montana Scenic/Historic Byway Program laws and rules prohibit use of designation to impose restrictions outside of a jurisdiction's authority
- Montana & federal citations
 - MCA 60-2-602
 - 23 USC, Section 162

Can MDT Restrict Truck Traffic?

- Some current restrictions already apply
- MDT can restrict with public input and careful considerations

Level of Service 2006 Existing Network with 2006 Traffic



Level of Service 2006 Existing Network with 2026 Traffic



Level Of Service (LOS)

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

LOS A – Vehicles are completely unimpeded in their ability to maneuver within the traffic stream. Almost no platoons are observed.

LOS B – The ability to maneuver within the traffic stream is only slightly restricted, and the general level of physical and psychological comfort provided to drivers is still high. Minor disruptions are still easily absorbed at this level.

LOS C – Freedom to maneuver within the traffic stream is noticeably restricted. There are noticeable increases in platoon formation, platoon size, and frequency of passing impediments. Minor disruptions may be expected to cause serious local deterioration in service, and queues may form behind any significant traffic disruption.

LOS D – Freedom to maneuver is more noticeably limited and the driver experiences reduced physical and psychological comfort levels. Even minor incidents can be expected to create queuing because the traffic stream has little space to absorb disruptions.

LOS E – Roadway is operating at capacity. Operations at this level are volatile there being virtually no usable gaps in the traffic stream.

LOS F – Describes breakdowns in vehicular flow.

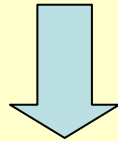
Cherry Industry

- During the few weeks of the cherry harvest:
 - Each of three packing operations generate about a semi-truckload per day for shipment out of the area, representing a modest increase in large truck traffic.
 - During harvest, growers deliver to the packing operations two to four times per day, typically by small truck-and-trailer rigs.
 - Consumer traffic is also generated by shoppers at roadside stands.
- During the non-harvest growing season:
 - Service-related traffic is predominately small trucks.
 - Traffic includes some trucks delivering fertilizers and pesticides.

Propane Distribution

- Five main propane distributors serve customers around the lake.
- Each distributor runs one or two routes per week on each side of the lake in "bobtail" delivery trucks. Each route entails several entry and exit movements.
- Few larger, wholesale distribution trucks travel either side of the lake. Most north-side distributors are served from Canada, and south-side distributors are served via Missoula.
- About 90 percent of purchasers are residential customers.
- Population and propane-related traffic is greater on the West Side than the East by about a 60/40 margin.

For
questions, comments, or to
provide input



Please join MDT staff
near the posters
for further discussion

THANK YOU